

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for detecting ~~an inhibitor~~ a toxicant of interaction between two or more binding partners, wherein at least one of said binding partners is immobilized to a substrate comprising glass, polystyrene, polymethacrylate, cellulose, nylon, polyvinylchloride or polypropylene, said method comprising contacting the binding partners before, during or after said partners have formed a binding partnership with a sample putatively containing said ~~inhibitor~~ toxicant; and screening for either dissociation of binding between said binding partners or inhibition of binding between said binding partners wherein dissociation or inhibition of binding is indicative of the presence of ~~an inhibitor~~ said toxicant.

Claim 2 (Cancel)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 2 1 wherein the toxicant is a heavy metal, a heavy metal ion, an organic compound or an organo-halide.

*B1*  
Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein a binding partner is a protein, ~~and/or~~ a nucleic acid molecule or a combination thereof. ← *d*

Claim 5 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the binding partner is an enzyme.

Claim 6 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the binding partner is a substrate of an enzyme.

Claim 7 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein a binding partner comprises a sulfhydryl group.

✓ Claim 8 (Original) A method according to Claim 4 wherein the binding partners are actin and actin-binding proteins.

✓ Claim 9 (Original) A method according to Claim 8 wherein the actin-binding protein is DNaseI or cofilin.

Claim 10 (Cancel)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 10 1 wherein the solid support is polystyrene or polymethacrylate.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 8 wherein the actin or actin-binding protein is ~~labelled~~ labeled with a dye.

Claims 13-26 (Withdrawn)

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cont  
Claim 27 (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 9 wherein the actin or actin-binding protein is labeled with a dye.

Claims 28-33 (Withdrawn)